

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CUMBERLAND COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NOS. 01 CRS 65079

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

v.

QUINTEL M. AUGUSTINE,
Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF TAWANA CHOATE


Tawana Choate, being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

1. I live in ^{BUNNLEVEL TC} Fayetteville, North Carolina.
2. I am Quintel Augustine's mother. I have five children. Quintel is my oldest son.
3. When I learned that Quintel had been charged with the murder of Officer Roy Turner, I was devastated.
4. I attended Quintel's death penalty trial and I testified for my son. Hearing the jury say that my son should be executed was one of the worst moments in my life.
5. My heart aches for Officer Turner's parents. I know they loved their son too.
6. After Quintel was convicted and sentenced to death, North Carolina passed the Racial Justice Act. The Act gave me hope because it had always bothered me that Quintel's jury did not have any black people on it. I was in the courtroom for jury selection and I watched as the judge or the prosecutor dismissed qualified African Americans who came to court for jury duty in my son's case.
7. I felt even more hopeful when I learned that Quintel was going to go to court for a Racial Justice Act hearing. I went to court every day and listened to the evidence.
8. Sometimes it was very difficult to hear the evidence of how the prosecutor, from the very beginning, before my son's trial even started, was planning to keep black people off the jury. I remember there were notes in the prosecutor's own handwriting where he talked about black people as "thugs" and "winos." I also understood the prosecutor to say in his notes that anyone who lived in a black neighborhood shouldn't be on my son's jury.
9. There was also evidence about how the other prosecutor in my son's case went to a training course where she learned how to dismiss African American people from

a jury and get away with it.

10. It hurt my heart to hear that evidence of racism.
11. When the judge found that the prosecution had discriminated against African Americans in jury selection in my son's case, and Cumberland County, and all over North Carolina, I felt so many things. As a mother, I was so happy and relieved that my son would not be executed but I was sad for the reason why Quintel's death sentence was reversed. As a citizen, I was glad that the racism at Quintel's trial was recognized. I don't understand why African Americans can't serve on juries just like white people.
12. I was in court when the judge made his ruling. I watched my son be resentenced to life. The heavy weight of him being executed was finally lifted.
13. A few months later, I learned that the prosecutors were appealing Quintel's case. I did not understand this because I thought Quintel being executed was behind us. I expected that I would never have to see him on death row again.
14. In December of last year, I learned that the Supreme Court of North Carolina had reversed my son's case. The court said the prosecution did not have enough time to prepare and that Quintel should have had his own hearing. About a month later, I learned that Quintel was back to wearing a red jumpsuit and that he was under sentence of death again. That didn't seem right to me because I never heard a judge sentence him back to death row.
15. I couldn't believe it. This was so painful to me. This is my son and I love him very much. I never expected I would have to see him on death row again. It breaks my heart. I am so afraid that the State of North Carolina will execute Quintel.
16. I am over the age of eighteen. I give this affidavit of my own free will concerning facts within my personal knowledge.

Further Affiant Sayeth Not.


Tawana Choate



Sworn and subscribed to before me,
a Notary Public for the County of Orange,
State of North Carolina on this,
the 22 day of November, 2016.
My commission expires August 15, 2018.

